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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 003591

SIPDIS

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TAGS: PREL KPKO FR UNSC

SUBJECT: UNSC: ISSUES FOR FRENCH PRESIDENCY IN JUNE

Classified By: Acting DCM Josiah Rosenblatt for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

11. (C) SUMMARY: MFA IO DAS-equivalent for political affairs Jean-Pierre Lacroix reviewed with poloff May 23 issues likely to be raised during France's June presidency of the U.N. Security Council.

IRAN

12. (C) Lacroix said that the big question for the UNSC in June would be the terms of debate should Iran proceed with its stated intention to resume nuclear activity (conversion). If they did so, Lacroix stated, the matter would be referred to the UNSC, which would have to decide how to proceed on Iran's violations, especially what the first step would be.

IRAQ

13. (C) When Lacroix noted that the MNF mandate was due for renewal by June 8, poloff responded that Iraqi FM Zebari would be in New York on May 31 or May 27 and that the USG preferred to take advantage of his visit to the UNSC to address all issues related to UNSCR 1546 together in one day in a low-key manner. Lacroix offered that at some point, there would be a need to address the "extraordinary" status of UNMOVIC so that Iraq's status could be normalized, but said there would be no initiatives on UNMOVIC in June.

LEBANON

14. (C) Lacroix commented that the UN mission to Lebanon had returned to New York and would shortly report on the issue of Syrian withdrawal. He said that the GoF planned to deal with the report with maximum discretion, as it was likely to contain elements which were positive for Damascus. Some in the UNSC, he said, would seize on these elements in the report to portray the Syrians as being in full compliance with UNSCR 1559. Accordingly he said, an open debate on the report should be avoided, limiting discussions to informal consultations to avoid sending any false signals to Damascus.

Lacroix said that the UNSC should also address the post-election scenario in Lebanon in a prudent manner to avoid giving the impression that the situation was resolved when there was still a great deal of work to do. Lacroix added that the commission of inquiry into the assassination of former PM Hariri was still conducting its work and was unlikely to report any time soon.

ISRAEL/PALESTINE

15. (C) Lacroix said that while Israel/Palestine issues arose in the Council "every month," there were no major issues to be addressed in June.

WESTERN SAHARA

16. (C) According to Lacroix, the GoF was seeking to promote discussion between Algeria and Morocco on Western Sahara. With Algeria apparently inflexible at present, he said, it made no sense for the SYG or the Council to raise the profile of Western Sahara by, for example, seeking to appoint a successor to James Baker as personal envoy.

COTE D'IVOIRE

17. (C) Lacroix said that the French text of the draft resolution on Cote d'Ivoire was largely completed. The remaining issue was that of the extent of the reinforcement of UNOCI.

DRC

18. (C) Lacroix noted the positive developments in DRC, including the adoption of the constitution, saying that the worst was over. In response to poloff's question, Lacroix said that France had never lost confidence in SRSG Swing who, he said, had been made a scapegoat for MONUC's problems, notably sexual abuse by some MONUC forces. Swing he said, had taken steps to address the abuse problem and the questions over his tenure were now in the past.

BURUNDI

19. (C) Lacroix said that ONUB was due for renewal before the French presidency of the Council, but gave no indication that there was any difficulty on this issue

SUDAN

10. (C) Lacroix said that discussion on Sudan had been moved elsewhere (read: to Brussels) regarding how the AU should be supported, and by whom (read: by NATO and/or the EU).

HAITI

11. (C) Lacroix noted that there was a debate under way in New York following the UNSYG's request for civilian police to reinforce MINUSTAH in order to address the difficult security situation in Haiti. He offered no indication of the French position on the SYG's request.

KOSOVO

12. (C) Lacroix said that the Council would receive the report on UN-endorsed standards for Kosovo and have to address the sequence of events concerning the nomination of the SYG's envoy and the degree of application of the standards. Lacroix expected that the SYG's representative would be Norway's NATO Permrep Kai Eide, who would conduct the final status discussions. Noting Russian reservations on Kosovo, Lacroix said that the UNSC was not bound to pronounce itself on the nomination of the envoy or the evaluation of standards, and could bypass formal discussions on these issues.

WOLFF